

I support media diversity

It is as a citizen concerned about the consolidation of power over information and media in today's corporate culture that I am writing to express my views on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

America has long prided itself on its free press and its wide and diverse public marketplace of ideas. While changes in FCC regulations may have increased sources of media, and advances in technology created new possibilities for means of transmission and dissemination of information, this is a double-edged sword. As ownership of the channels of communication consolidate in fewer hands, this can easily translate into control by fewer people and entities over greater and greater channels of information. This is the very antithesis of a free marketplace of ideas.

I believe this matter is of central importance in an era where many of the fundamental elements of our democracy are challenged by political, social, economic, and technology issues that our founders could not have anticipated. Americans need to be informed and involved in decisions that will have a profound effect on the nature of our society now and far into the future. It is essential that the FCC hold hearings in many areas of the country and make a genuine effort to listen to the concerns and suggestions of citizens.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

William W. Rose
Seattle, WA